

however, may be continued to its full term, although the inner surface of the uterus remain in a state of chronic inflammation the whole time; but the process is accompanied with great suffering, and likely to be frequently endangered. The decidua membrane is generally found greatly thickened, tufted, vascular, and not unfrequently exhibits appearances of recent inflammatory action, and the placenta is interspersed with fibrinous deposits.

"The treatment consists in local or general bleeding, regulated according to the strength of the patient, and the urgency of the symptoms; in the exhibition of alterative and soothing medicines; and in injections within the uterus, when unimpregnated."

We recommend the work of Mr. Whitehead to all who may desire to study the observations of a cautious, experienced, and candid practitioner, in reference to a class of ailments, which will be presented to the notice of every one engaged in extensive practice almost daily, and which will demand close attention to determine their proper character, and a judicious application of appropriate remedies, to arrest their progress and effect their entire removal.

D. F. C.

ART. XXIV.—*On Poisons in relation to Medical Jurisprudence and Medicine.* By ALFRED S. TAYLOR, F. R. S., Lecturer on Medical Jur. and Chem., in Guy's Hospital, &c. Edited, with notes and additions, by R. Eglesfeld Griffith, M. D., &c. pp. 687. 8vo. Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1848.

THIS amplification of the treatise on toxicology contained in the author's manual of medical jurisprudence, was called for by the rapid advances of science, the great increase of the crime of poisoning, and the necessity of "collecting and arranging in a convenient form for reference, those important medical facts in relation to death from poison," which must form the basis upon which the proper administration of justice in such cases is to be founded.

During the three years which have elapsed since the former publication alluded to above, much has been done in medical jurisprudence, and the work before us bears ample evidence of the author's assiduity in collecting cases bearing upon toxicology, and of his thorough knowledge of the whole subject, both in its medical and legal aspects, and as affected by advances in science or by recent judicial decisions. The American editor—whose additions are valuable—has, in a few words, given the characteristics of Mr. Taylor's work. "It is an elaborate epitome of all that is known on the subject of the poisons, and is amply illustrated with cases, so as to exemplify the relative value attached by juries to the various symptoms induced by the respective articles, and also of the modes of detecting these articles as given by the best authorities."

C. R. K.

ART. XXV.—*Bericht des Gesundheitsrathes an die hohe Regierung des Kantons Zürich über des Medicinalwesen des Kantons im Jahr. 1846.* 8vo. pp. 107. Zürich: 1847. *Report of the Council of Health to the Supreme Government of the Canton of Zurich, in relation to the medical affairs of the Canton during the year 1846.*

THIS very instructive report embraces, first, an account of the prevailing diseases—endemic, epidemic, and sporadic—remarks on the effects of particular remedies, drawn from the experience of the leading physicians of the canton, notices of the more important surgical cases, puerperal affections, and diseases of children; and a few interesting toxicological observations. The second part embraces a view of the affairs of the several medical institutions of the canton, of the polyclinic, and of the prisons of the canton, in a medical point of view. The third part presents a general notice of the official acts of the council of Health, in reference to apothecaries, midwives, forensic and military medicine, instruction, and veterinary medicine. This part comprises a table of births, report on vaccinations and

revaccinations, and a tabular view of the deaths that occurred in the canton, during the year 1846. The report concludes with a notice of the number and character of the diseases affecting the domestic animals.

The whole number of births in the canton, during the year 1846, was 7283, in a population of 231,576—of these births 3758 were males, and 3525 females, and two abortions whose sex was not determined—136 were twins—6970 were born under the care of midwives without help, and 313 with the assistance of obstetric physicians. The forceps were employed in 159 cases, and version practised in 72—of the 7283 children born, 350 (202 males and 148 females) were born dead—namely, 85 (47 males and 38 females) prematurely, and 265 (155 males and 110 females) at the full period; of those born alive, 207 (128 males and 79 females) died before baptism.

During the year 1846, 5304 individuals were vaccinated, in 5200 cases successfully; revaccination was performed in 153 cases, successfully in 66 cases, and with only partial or no success in 65 cases; in the other cases the result could not be ascertained.

The whole number of deaths in the canton, during the year 1846, was 5928—3076 males and 2852 females, being 1 in 39 of the population—of the deaths, 2464—1200 males and 1264 females, occurred in married, widowed, or divorced persons, and 3464—1876 males and 1588 females, in unmarried persons. Deductions 380 dead born—of the deaths, 1870 occurred in persons under one year of age; 450, between 2 and 10 years; 200, between 10 and 20; 322, between 20 and 30; 316, between 30 and 40; 358, between 40 and 50; 474, between 50 and 60; 790, between 60 and 70; 603, between 70 and 80; 157, between 80 and 90; and 8 over 90 years of age. Of the deaths, 1472—702 males and 770 females, occurred during the months of January, February, and March; 1646—870 males and 776 females, during the months of April, May, and June; 1541—790 males and 751 females, during the months of July, August, and September; 1269—684 males and 585 females, during the months of October, November, and December.

From the remarks on individual remedies, we extract the following:

*Ext. Sem. Stramonii.*—Professor Locher-Balber praises the effects of this remedy, not only in cases of neuralgic and rheumatic-gouty pains, but also in the latter stages of cases of a more inflammatory character, as cephalalgia, hemicrania, odontalgia, arthralgia, ischias rheumatica and arthritica, and rheumatica scleritis. He states that the dose may be safely increased, until it produces symptoms of intoxication, dryness of the throat, dimness of vision or even diminution of consciousness.

*Ext. Solani Tuberosi.*—This article appears to Dr. Rahn to be a valuable addition to our materia medica. In cases of spasmodic cough, in the second and third stages of whooping-cough, and in the obstinate, dry irritative cough in arthritic cases, and in cases of chronic tuberculosis, it acts as a calmant more certainly than either hyoscyamus or belladonna, while it does not produce the same disagreeable effects upon the sensorium; nor does it, like opium, confine the bowels. He has never seen congestion of the brain produced by it, even when given in doses of from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to half a grain.

*Rhus Toxicodendron.*—Dr. Behr has found this article beneficial in cases of rheumatism and ischias, when the pain is most severe during a state of repose, and when the disease has resulted from suppressed perspiration. He gives it in the form of infusion, one scruple of the leaves to six ounces of water. The infusion to be strained before it is used.

*Secale Cornutum.*—Dr. Aeschmann has had ample experience of the good effects of this remedy in arresting hemorrhage from the uterus, unconnected with inflammation. He employs an ethereal solution of the oily matter of the ergot. Equal parts, by weight, of the ergot and of ether are to be digested together for seven days; the ether is then to be evaporated, and the remaining oily matter is to be dissolved in one-half the amount of ether employed in the first instance. In cases of simple metrorrhagia, he gives six to eight drops of the solution, four or five times a day. When he fears the stimulating effects of the ether, he directs the dose to be dropped upon a small portion of loaf sugar, which is to be held for a few minutes in a stream of air, to cause the ether to evaporate. He believes that

the remote narcotic effects of the ergot is entirely removed by the preparation just described.

*Hydrarg. Cyanogenat.*—Dr. Schneebeli has found six grains of this preparation, combined with half an ounce of lard, to be a very effectual remedy in cases of hydrocele, both congenital and acquired. It is to be rubbed into the scrotum once or twice daily. The removal of the swelling is effected by it in a short time, and permanently. In some cases, where the skin is very delicate, inflammation and ulceration have followed its use.

*Argenti Nitric.*—From the strong recommendation of others, Dr. Rahn was induced to try the effects of this article in cholera infantum. He believes it not to be well adapted to the first stages of the disease. It quickly arrests the discharge from the bowels, but not permanently, the slightest cause inducing their return; and if the remedy is continued for any length of time, it is apt to produce a submucous inflammation of the intestines, endangering the occurrence of marasmus, particularly in very young patients. In the more chronic forms of the disease, attended with an exhausting diarrhœa, the nitrate of silver will often be found beneficial; even in these cases, however, Dr. Rahn considers the bitter astringents, especially the cinchonin and salacin, to be preferable remedies, the long continuance of the latter being unattended with the danger consequent upon the protracted administration of the former.

*Ol. Jecor. Asselli*—As a corrigent of this remedy, Dr. Diener recommends the *elix. pect. Danic*, one part of the latter to from two to five of the oil. The external application of the oil, combined with opodeldoc and spir. sal. ammon. caust., he praises as an external application in cases of scrofula, rhachitis and arthritis.

*Iodkali.*—By a methodical pressure, by means of a plate of lead and adhesive plaster, and the internal use of Iodkali, given to the extent of producing intoxication, Dr. Schäfer succeeded in healing a case of scirrhus mamma. He gave the remedy in the form of pills, commencing with four grains, and gradually augmenting the dose to eight grains, daily. The treatment occupied from ten to twelve months.

*Succus Dauci rec. exp.*—Dr. Rahn is of opinion that this remedy has fallen improperly into disuse. He has seen the best effects result from its use, to the extent of from three to four ounces daily, in cases of hepatitis, chronic jaundice, and congestion of the portal system.

D. F. C.

ART. XXVI.—*Ueber Aether-Rausch (Phrenopathia æthereæ), mit besonderer Rücksicht auf die jüngsten Erfahrungen in England und Frankreich*, von DR. E. NATHAN, Practischen Arzte in Hamburg. 8vo. 50 pp. Hamburg: 1847.

*On Ether-Intoxication (Phrenopathia æthereæ), with especial reference to the most recent Observations in England and France*, by E. NATHAN, M. D., of Hamburg.

THIS is a sensible, calm, and cautious exposition of the practice of ether inhalation, as a means of inducing insensibility to pain during surgical operations and in parturition, and for relieving painful and other disagreeable symptoms in various cases of disease. The author, it is true, presents nothing new on the subject, but he has compared and arranged, with great judgment, the numerous observations in reference to the subject that had been made public up to the period when his communication was written. He has given, with the most perfect impartiality, the testimony borne in favour of the exhibition of the ether as an anodyne, by the leading physicians and surgeons of England, France, and Germany, and with equal honesty, he has detailed a variety of cases, collected from the leading medical journals of Europe, in which the use of the ether gave rise to disagreeable, injurious, or even fatal results. Dr. Nathan is perfectly alive to the importance, under particular circumstances, of the surgeon and physician having at their command a means of inducing insensibility to pain, without endangering either present or future injury to the constitution; he is, nevertheless, neither carried away by the popular cry in favour of the ether inhalation, nor prepared from the reported instances of its injurious effects to condemn its use under all circumstances and